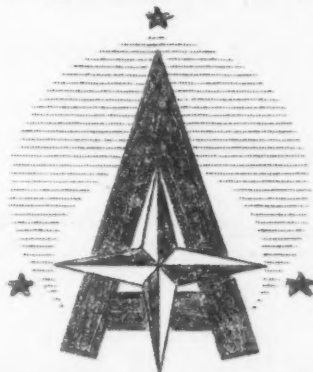


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A JOURNAL OF RESEARCH

EDITOR
EGERTON SYKES

ASST. EDITORS
V.G. HOWE
L. YOUNG



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THE ORGAN OF THE RESEARCH CENTRE GROUP

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LOST ATLANTIS

Chapter Five

Returning to Solon's story, we read: "Now Atlas had a numerous and honourable family and his eldest branch always held the kingship and realm, which the eldest son passed on to his eldest son for many generations: and they had so great a treasure as was never before owned by kings and rulers and is never again likely: and they were provided with all that they could desire in city and country. For by reason of the extent of their empire many things were brought to them from foreign lands." We perceive here, to begin with, the custom of primogeniture, wherein an unwritten Salic law must have been observed. Those acquainted with Greek mythology will remember that even Atlas, powerful though he was, had his seven daughters carried away in a raid by the contemporary Egyptian ruler, Busiris, who was also a son of Poseidon by Libya. In this fable we may interpret Libya as the region lying westwards of the modern Nile valley, whence, in all likelihood, Egypt was colonised, and which became in course of time one of the earliest states of the ancient world, centuries perhaps, before the delta had been formed. It is a recurrent feature of ancient geography that most of the early states and empires have been personified as heroes and demigods who are then treated as if they had really existed as individuals and been the founders of the regions which bear their names - or from which they have derived theirs. And we find that Atlas and Busiris were step-brothers, and that furthermore a war of some magnitude had taken place between the eastern regions of Atlantis and the Egypt of that time, which had not long risen to be a power of some importance.

The expression, "for many generations", is too general for us to be able to draw any conclusions from it. We learn that shipping of some sort must have existed, for how else could "many things" be

brought into the island empire from "foreign countries." It may of course be argued that these "foreign countries" were parts of the vast island itself, or at any rate were subject lands: but in that case why were docks built within the capital city and why were so many maritime conscripts enrolled? The only answer is that different periods in the island's history may be referred to.

We now approach an important and interesting part of Solon's story. In it we discover traces of a civilisation with arts and crafts organised on such a high level that we must reconsider our ideas of progress and the early development of man. It is certain that the Atlanteans had passed through the neolithic and paleolithic stages, and in Solon's story we see them already as miners, smelters, casters, and gravers of metal, acquainted with metallurgy and alloys, and able to put them to useful and decorative use.

In addition, they were architects, shipbuilders and sculptors - masters, indeed, of the whole gamut of arts and crafts, and, maybe, possessed of knowledge that we no longer possess. We cannot explain how, without the mechanical means we employ nowadays, they could raise the massive pillars of their temples, construct bridges and excavate their innumerable canals.

But to resume Solon's narrative. "In the first place, they dug out of the earth whatever was there, mineral or metal and orichalcum was then dug out of the ground in many parts of the island, and excepting gold was regarded as the most valuable of metals among the men of those days."

This is a very interesting statement for a Greek philosopher like Solon to have recorded. "Those days" refers to the period of time preceding the destruction of the island, roughly 11,500 years ago. It implies a system of mining and a distinction between mineral and metallic ores. Most interesting of all is the reference to the famous metal orichalcum which is reported to have been so plentiful. Yet Solon reports it as having been unknown to the Greeks of Athens or the Egyptians of Sais in 569 B.C. when Solon visited them.

For by then it was only a name: yet in what form did Solon get this name from his priestly informant in the Egyptian temple? The word itself is purely Hellenic, and there must have been some Atlantean name for the metal. Why had it never been exported to other lands, particularly those subject to the empire? Lastly, as it ranked next to gold in value, though not in scarcity, why has it disappeared so completely and, so it seems for ever? From a later passage in the story we learn that it was even fashioned in plates, but of what thickness we are not told. One other quality of this metal is recorded - its reddish colour. From this some have deduced that it was pure copper, others brass; some acquainted with the processes of alloying have suggested that it might be some composition of phosphor-bronze. But if it was nothing more nor less than pure copper, why did Solon speak of its having disappeared from human ken with the destruction of Atlantis? Copper has been mined and worked from earliest times in Spain, Britain, South Africa, and other countries.

After much consideration I would suggest the possibility that as some stories suggest that orichalcum was white in colour while Plato speaks of the ruddy glow, this metal may have been a natural alloy of copper having varying shades of hue. For the account later tells us that it was not used alone but for coating columns, walls and so on, for which it was beaten out into sheets of the necessary thinness: it was also used for making small articles of adornment. But in centuries of archeological research and excavation, nothing made of this orichalcum has been unearthed: nor has anything made of the metals it was supposed to be - pure copper or brass, native or otherwise, both of which metals would in any case have been destroyed long ago by rust, oxidation and other natural chemical processes. One writer on Atlantis has used the term "pinchbeck", implying that orichalcum was a copper and zinc alloy, but it is hard to find any support for this idea since we are told that orichalcum was a genuine metal. He also interprets the Greek name

as oreichalkos, meaning mountain copper, as if there were different kinds of copper. In *The Classical Journal*, 1824, we find orichalcum taken as copper or native brass. This latter is, I think, used exclusively by the famous metal workers of the Central Provinces and the Punjab of India. It is easy to understand why Solon thus used the term orichalcum, or mountain brass, to describe this metal he had never seen but learnt of from the Egyptian priest who, in his turn, had also never seen it but judged it, from its reddish glow, to be copper. But why, if the same word orichalcum, was the Hellenic name for copper, mountain or otherwise, is it not used in the association of copper with the goddess Aphrodite on the island of Venus? As far as I know, only two Greek authors mention orichalcum, and it is probably that one copied it from the other. And we shall also see that brass itself was known and used by the Atlanteans, quite apart from gold, orichalcum and tin. The authority for the white colour is Paul Schliemann (57).

Critias the Younger goes on to say: "There was plenty of wood for carpenter's work, and sufficient maintenance for tame and wild animals. Moreover, there were a great number of elephants in the island." Now elephants at one time lived in a wild state in north-west Africa, particularly towards the coasts of Tunis, and in the marshy regions of the interior nearby: and if the island of Atlantis included on its eastern side the southern coast of Portugal up to Lisbon, if no further north, and the Barbary states as far east as Barca, the south-west littoral of Andalusian Spain and the African coasts from Cape Blanco down to Senegambia, we get a very wide habitat for the elephant. I make no mention of the mammoth, for this creature seems to have been indigenous to more northerly regions than Atlantis. (As early as 1797-1865 Lyell (58) stated that the habitat of the elephant previously extended far further northwards than it does now. In 1859 remains of the present African elephant were discovered in Sicily. Further finds have proved conclusively that the elephant once flourished in the Mediterranean

region at the time of Atlantis. There are even indications that a sudden cataclysm, accompanied by climatic changes, put an end to their existence here. Atlantis apparently possessed a tropical climate that favoured the continued existence of elephants.)

The narrative is taken up once more by Critias the Younger: "And there was provision for beasts of all sorts, both for those inhabiting lakes and swamps and rivers as well as those living in mountains and plains, and therefore for that beast which is the largest and most voracious of them all." The present most northerly habitat of the elephant appears to be Senegambia - Nigeria - Southern Nilotic Region - India - Siam - Burma, stretching across the old world: it has evidently been driven southwards by the drying up of north-west Africa where, at one time, when large tracts of it were marshy and covered with jungle-like vegetation, it was indigenous. Dr. Vidaleng, (59) states that remains of the African elephant have been discovered in the vicinity of Casablanca. I always wondered where the Carthaginians and their neighbours the Numidians obtained the vast numbers of elephants they are said to have had. This animal could not have been brought to north Africa across the Sahara, then as great a desert as it is to-day, nor by way of Egypt where it was only known as a curiosity. No: it must really have been indigenous to the north-west countries of Africa when they formed a part of the island of Atlantis: and herds of these animals must have survived for many centuries after the island had sunk, leaving high and dry the shores and cliffs of the present northern coasts of Morocco, from the northern bank and mouth of the River Sus eastwards as far as Tunis. It was then that this part of Africa may have temporarily become an island, with the River Sus as its south-west boundary, with a vast chain of lakes bordering its southern coasts and reaching far away to the waters of Sudra: I have already suggested that Lake Tritonitis then drained into the Mediterranean. And with these changes in the surface of the world, most parts of the then-inhabited world must have suffered corresponding changes in climate, affecting their fauna

and flora. (The identification of at least part of Atlantis with North Africa, and more especially with the Atlas Mountains, has been much laboured by both French and German writers. Even admitting the sometime existence of a Saharan Sea, however, Morocco would still have been a peninsula, not an island: and this area, though large, does not approximate to the dimensions of the island given by Plato. Geological considerations also do not justify the theory. Hermann, (60) Prorok (61) and Butavand (62) only serve by their findings to emphasise the colonial character of this region.)

We return to Plato: "Also, whatever sweet-smelling things there are on the earth, either roots, herbs or woods, or distilled drops of flowers, grew in that land: and the cultivated fruits of the earth, both the dry eatable fruit and other fruits which we Hellenes call by the common name Legumes, and the fruit having a hard rind, giving drink and meat and ointment, and good stocks of chestnuts, the sort which may be used for playing with and are fruits which go bad with keeping, and the pleasant sorts of dessert which cheer us after our mid-day repast, when we are replete and tired of eating: all these that sacred isle lying beneath the sun brought forth wondrously fair to look upon and in endless plenty."

This passage clearly indicates that the cocoanut palm was a native of the island of Atlantis, thus associating it with the West Indies and West Africa where the cocoanut palm still flourishes and produces fruit that is good to eat and gives milk and oil. Notice, too, the division of chestnuts into the edible varieties and the inedible chestnuts with which the game of "conkers" is still played: is it perhaps the same game that the Younger Critias alluded to? The curious expression, "Lying beneath the sun," at once suggests that the main portion of the island was tropical or sub-tropical. We may well ask whether, before the final disaster overwhelmed Atlantis, the equator did not run further south than now, traversing the southern portion of the island.

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NEGATIVE MATTER

— by L.C. Suggars —

In the July and September/52 issues of "Atlantis", Mr. Egerton Sykes introduced the subject of Negative Matter. It is a subject of which more will be heard in the future scientific world, but in the meantime many who are interested in science are asking what is meant by the term.

In our early days we are introduced at school to that algebraic mystery, the minus quantity, and throughout our lives we associate anything negative as being a minus quantity. In the case of negative matter it is, however, not a minus quantity though it is doubtful if anyone has seen such an item. The word "doubtful" is used with caution as will be seen later.

To obtain an idea of negative matter we must turn to nuclear physics for an explanation. "Nuclear Physics - far too complicated!" I can hear someone say and then hurriedly turn over the page to the next article, but it can be made to sound reasonably simple as anyone who is taking a Civil Defence course knows.

All matter is composed of molecules and these in turn are composed of atoms. The atom resembles in principle a minute solar system. The centre of the system consists of a nucleus and around this centre

revolves one or more electrons. The latter represent the planets in the solar system all revolving around a common sun, the nucleus.

Unlike the planets, which are complicated structures, the electrons are simple charges of negative electricity. The nucleus is, however, not a simple structure, and consists essentially of a number of protons, which are charges of positive electricity, and these in turn are held together by neutrons which are neither positive nor negative charges of electricity. However, let us ignore the neutrons and concentrate on electrons and protons.

The number of electrons surrounding the nucleus and the number of protons comprising the nucleus are different in quantity for each element but in all cases the total negative electric charge of the electrons in the atom is balanced by the total positive charge of the protons and the atom is therefore normally electrically stable.

There are 92 known natural elements and the simplest element is hydrogen which has one electron. Then comes helium with two electrons, then lithium with three, and so on up to uranium with 92 electrons. As the total positive charge of the nucleus keeps step with each additional electron, it follows that the mass of the nucleus increases as the number of electrons increases.

From this description we have a simplified view of the atom and it helps us to understand the next step towards negative matter.

In 1932 came the discovery of a positively charged electron, now called a positron, and this naturally has lead to a great deal of speculation. If there exists a positively charged electron, does it not follow that there must be a negatively charged proton? Not necessarily, but it is a fascinating idea.

All matter as we know it is positive because it is made of a positively charged nucleus. If there are negatively charged protons (shall we call them Controns?) it must follow that there is negative matter. How would this state of affairs affect us?

The first reactions of scientists were that such matter would have a gravity resisting medium if used on the "positive" globe of the Earth, i.e. in a way similar to that envisaged by H.G. Wells in his celebrated novel "The First Men in the Moon", but further considerations have shown that this may be not so. As already stated in the September/52 issue of "Atlantis", Bernard Duranton has applied the theory of negative matter to the solar system. He points out that the densities of the planets, starting with Mercury, decrease as they get further from the Sun i.e. Mercury, Earth, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn have densities of 6.3, 5.5, 5.0, 3.8, 1.4, and 0.7 respectively. It will be noted that Duranton has placed Earth between Mercury and Venus instead of between Venus and Mars which is its present orbital path. Duranton explains its present orbit as a displacement due to capture of the Moon, and that its original orbit was between Mercury and Venus.

Somewhere between Saturn and Uranus, Duranton visualises a zero point and then the densities start to rise again, thus Uranus, Neptune and Pluto - 1.2, 2.2 and 5.0 respectively. All these figures do not agree with those issued by the British Astronomical Association but nevertheless that fact does not seriously detract from the idea that once matter crosses the zero point going away from the sun it (matter) may partake of a negative character. This of course, cannot be proved until man visits these planets. On the other hand, the breaking down of the positive atom, such as happens in the atomic bomb produces gamma rays, and it may be that the breaking down of the negative atom produces cosmic rays. Incidentally, heavy doses of both rays are dangerous to life.

With the idea of two types of matter before us and thus two types of world in which to live, one's mind is naturally led along the line of two types of life but here we must cry - Stop!

... :: :: An:::

LETTER FROM DR. MALAISE

Dear Sir,

In the May number of "Atlantis" an article by E.H. Nutter "Atlantis, A Geological Survey" has appeared. In this his review Nutter cited also my theory of Atlantis and its submersion. This my theory is apparently known to Nutter only from the short account in the "Atlantean Research" of 1948. It is not surprising if he, with only this account as a foundation should not have understood what forces were responsible for the sinking of Atlantis, viz. the constricting influence of a low temperature on all matters including the earth's crust. According to the Constriction Theory of N.H. Odhner of 1934, by far not yet generally known by geologists, the change in temperature of the ocean water from the warm Tertiary, when the bottom water ought to have attained a mean temperature of at least 20 to 25 centigrades, to the icy cold of the Quaternary. This low temperature is still prevailing and has caused tremendous geographical changes the world over. This drop in temperature of the bottom water of the oceans to its present degree of between -2.5 (Weddell's Sea) and an average of +2.5 degrees, must have cooled the bottom of the marine basins and caused these depressed vaults of the earth's crust to shrink and accordingly to lessen their former down-pressed curvature. This smoothing out of the ocean bottoms caused the general sea-level to rise. The cold water of the rising oceans caused in turn the borders of the continents to sink as I have explained in, for instance, the American geological paper "Earth Science Digest" (March 1950). Atlantis sank accordingly gradually, perhaps in a step-like fashion. When Nutter believes I attributed the sinking of the raised crustal vaults to the weight of the ice on them, this is a mistake; I have always strongly opposed this the pet view of isostatists. Compared to the force of expansion and constriction due to change in temperature, the force of gravity is almost negligible.

The great thickness of the earth's solid crust (2900 kms \pm 4 kms) makes an influence of the weight of a comparatively thin cover of sediments or of ice on the crust to appear ridiculous.

The testimony of the difference in sedimentation on both sides of the now sunken Mid-Atlantic Ridge is an undeniable geological evidence that this ridge has sunken and that it remained above water-level many thousands of years after the end of the Ice-Age. This is the first definite proof of the existence of the Continent Atlantis. Radio carbon dating on both sides of the Atlantic dates the last advance of an ice-sheet of the Ice Age to have occurred about 11,000 years ago, and the Atlantis Continent must accordingly have existed as dry land also in such a comparatively low part as where the bottom samples were collected, to less than half of the time since this last advance. The main part of the continent may have remained above water thousands of years after the sinking of that low part. In a book, "Atlantis, a Geological Reality", already translated from Swedish into English, I have for several reasons dated the destruction of the coast-land of Atlantis, i.e. the centrum of the Atlantean culture, to about 1200 B.C. The type-script of this English edition has been brought up to date with the last scientific achievements to Dec. 1953, and has recently been sent to a publisher in London.

The Continent Atlantis remained probably in parts above water some additional centuries during which part of the population migrated, chiefly to Central America. In this book to come, I have advanced the theory that not only the high cultures of ancient Central America and Peru, but also the much older stone-age hunting cultures of the Quaternary of North America, like the elephant hunting culture "Llanos", the Sandia (= Solutrean) Culture and the still older Interglacial hunters, all originating in Atlantis and coming to America over now sunken land-bridges.

The myths of the Flood originated perhaps in the sinking Atlantis, if they were not reminiscences from the dim memory of the rising ocean levels at the end

of the Ice Age. When the polar caps and the glaciers of the Ice Age diminished in size or melted away the level of the oceans rose about 100 metres and drowned all fertile coast-lands. When Atlantis sank, this was probably not understood by its inhabitants as a sinking of the continent, but it was interpreted as a, perhaps local rising of the sea-level.

When the Hoerbiger Theory states that the moon caused the water of the oceans to accumulate as two immense waves, one of which reached high up in the Andean Mountains, this part of the theory must be erroneous. If such a mountain of water had drowned most of South America in Post Glacial time, then the low-lands of, for instance, the Amazonas must also have been covered by water. The fauna and flora of Amazonas and the adjacent parts of the Andes are extremely rich in species wanting in surrounding parts of the continent or elsewhere. This multitude of so-called endemic species must have had millions of years to be able to develop such a multiformity. It is entirely out of question that all these new species could have developed in the short time of a few millenia. The same applies also to other parts of the tropical and subtropical belts, which all are rich in endemic species of plants and animals. We know for certain that in those parts of Europe and North America that were covered by an inland-ice, endemic species have not had time enough since the melting of the ice to develop into distinct species. The present flora and fauna of these formerly ice-covered parts have come from surrounding ice-free parts. Only local races, but no species, have had time to develop in these formerly ice-covered tracts during the 11,000 years since the end of the Ice Age. Neither the Neotropical, the Ethiopian, or the Indo-Australian Regions can accordingly have been submerged in Post Glacial time, either by the level oceans or by a water-mountain. In this respect the Hoerbiger Theory has to be altered in order that its otherwise great merits may be acceptable. No theory, however ingenious and convincing, can ever be accepted by science if contradicted by known facts. The theory

must then either be altered or the contradictions explained away. In the history of science, a supposed contradiction to a theory has frequently later proved to be a strong evidence in favour of the theory in question.

René Malaise.

THE ATLANTIC AND THE THEORY OF CONTINENTAL DRIFT

The theory of continental drift, known also as the theory of Alfred Wegener, is championed in a most convincing manner by the Hoerbiger-theory, too (1). It is usually regarded as containing elements both for and against the assumption of a landbridge between the Old and the New World in an earlier epoch of our planet's history (3). However, there seems to be one argument for which, though hitherto neglected, tends to render all further speculations as to the arguments against obsolete. The point is, that part of the arch-continent, as it was formed in the period before the Earth started rotating, is lacking in our map of the world to-day. Everybody can ascertain this circumstance by means of a map and a pair of scissors. Fitting the old and the new world together, it will at once be seen, that the landmass that should have filled the Mexican Gulf, just outside the Strait of Gibraltar, forms a missing link in the otherwise roughly corresponding coastal lines of the Americas on the one side and western Europe and Africa on the other.

Geology owes an explanation as to whither this landmass has gone. Obviously, it is not to be found above sea-level. Consequently, if the theory of continental drift is to be maintained (4), we shall have to seek it below. This was the continent, the traces of which has repeatedly been found on the bottom of the ocean. At a certain time it was left behind by the drifting Americas, and it found its resting-place in the middle of the Atlantic until its

submergence in the Luna-capture-cataclysm about 11,600 B.C. (5). The nowadays islands in the Mexican Gulf and the Caribbean form traces of this break-away, and the myths relating to such a catastrophe find a sound explanation (2).

The cause for the phenomenon are three:

- 1) The landmass in question being situated in the middle of the drifting American continent **not far from the Equator**. The greater rotational speed of the Earth's crust in equatorial regions makes it quite logical, that these very parts, being subjected to more powerful distorting influences than those nearer to the poles, were rent asunder and the fragments separated from each other.
- 2) The Hoerbiger theory will add, that equatorial regions were just below the path of at least the tertiary satellite of the Earth and subjected to a strong lunar pull.
- 3) The extraordinary geographical phenomenon inside the pillars of Hercules, the Mediterranean, may have been a result, but it is possible, too, that it was an additional cause, disturbing the adhesive balance in the continental system. However, the changes in the Mediterranean is still a matter for discussion. It is only felt, that this basin must have had some connection with the general distortion in these latitudes.

Would it be possible from these speculations to say something about the approximate outlines and size of the lost land? A comparison with the bottom of the Atlantic as revealed by deep-sea-soundings should give interesting results. Perhaps even an investigation of geological formations in Mexico, Spain and North-West-Africa would be useful.

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BOOKS AND FILMS

— by Critias —

Aux Sources de l'Atlantide, by Leonard Sain-Michel,
Paris, 1953. Post Free 8/- or \$1.30.

This short monograph, of 184 pages, is an excellent resume of current French thought on the subject of Atlantis. It contains an excellent bibliography, in which are listed several sources not hitherto recorded by the Atlantis Research Centre. The stress, in accordance with the trend of the day in Paris, is anti cartesian, but nevertheless the author has managed to cover much ground in his investigations.

It is, however, a matter for regret that the most recent English book consulted is "Lost Atlantis" by James Bramwell, which came out in 1938. For German literature the situation is even worse, as the latest work mentioned is the late Alexander Bessmertny's "Atlantis" a French translation of which appeared in 1935. The result of this is that the authority is sixteen years in arrears with English thought and twenty years in respect of German thought, which means that he has not only missed practically the entire literature of the Hoerbiger theory, but also all post war publications in English.

Riders to the Stars - an United Artists Film. Starring William Lundigan, Herbert Marshall and Martha Heyer.

This science fiction film, now showing, is excellent of its kind. The technical standard is high and the acting by the three principals is excellent. Herbert Marshall really gives the impression of being a scientist, Martha Heyer, in spite of being most attractive in appearance really looks intelligent enough to be a Doctor of Science - this is a most refreshing change as several Hollywood stars seen in similar parts recently would have had difficulty in making the first grade in an infants school. William Lundigan gives that brand of mental toughness which his part demands. Varying stages of adolescent male hysteria were depressingly portrayed by others of the cast.

The plot which is based on the assumption that meteors have a natural coating which enables them to withstand cosmic rays, and which wears off as they approach earth, this necessitating their capture in outer space for examination is average, but the technical execution was really first rate. If, as one assumes, models were used for certain of the shots of rockets, the change over was undetectable, even with the greatest of care in observing.

Provided that science fiction films can keep up to this standard, where the science is credible, the technology of a high standard, and the acting in keeping with both, this type of entertainment has a great future before it.

La Fiction de l'Attraction Terrestre et Lunaire, Paris 1953.

Genese Physique des Marees, Paris 1953; by Rene Pradel. Price about 3/6d or 60 cents, post free.

These two brochures, which appear to come together, contain certain original and interesting theories of the author on the whole question of gravitation and its cause.

In view of the recent statements on the BBC to the



effect that at minus 273 Centigrade it is possible, at very little expenditure of energy, to nullify the effects of gravitation and to put matter into very nearly free suspension, any fresh material on the subject of gravitation is worthy of consideration. It must not be forgotten that if mans destiny is in the stars, the problem of gravitation will have to be solved in order to enable him to get there.

La Bible Secrete des Noirs by Prince Birinda.
Paris 1953. 10/- or \$1.50 post free.

A reasoned statement on the cosmogonical theories of the black races of Africa which is of interest not only on scientific but also on religious grounds.

... ..

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COMING SHORTLY

The first instalment of the BRONZE GATES by R.M. Gattefosse, translated by Egerton Sykes. A romantic story of a search for Atlantis in French North Africa.

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Classical References to Atlantis, E. Sykes	1/0d or £0.15
Dictionary of Non-classical Myth, E. Sykes	15/6d or £2.40
Glastonbury, Egerton Sykes	9d or £0.15
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